

From the Editors

The papers published in this issue of the journal were presented at the 2013 FNCV Biodiversity Symposium, the theme of which was 'Water and biodiversity'. The issues explored by the presenters, within the theme of the symposium, covered a wide span of research into ecology, human-wildlife interaction, and attitudes to wetlands in an historical context.

The FNCV series of biodiversity symposia fulfils an important function, for both the club and research in natural history generally. For the past 12 years the club has been promoting the value of research into biodiversity issues; in hosting the symposia, it creates opportunities for scientists and other researchers to meet with a public audience and speak about their research. The resulting spread of information assists in the club's primary goal — to understand our natural world.

It is well recognised that wetlands have a vital place within natural environments. Among many functions they help to maintain good water quality in rivers, replenish groundwater, and store carbon. In addition they are sites of high biodiversity value. Regrettably, they are threatened often by human activity and need to be protected. The more we know about the value of these landscape features, the better.

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